



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement by Maj. Gen. Albert H. Wilkening on the death of Wisconsin Army National Guard Sergeant Ryan Jopek

Words fail to convey the depth of my sorrow following the death of Sergeant Ryan Jopek in Iraq early Wednesday. Ryan was one of Wisconsin's very finest and served his nation with bravery, distinction and valor. He was on his final convoy security mission in Iraq after serving overseas for the past 50 weeks with his unit, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry.

My deepest sympathy goes to Ryan's entire family and especially to his father, Staff Sergeant Brian Jopek, who served a year in Iraq with a different Wisconsin Army National Guard unit in 2004. I want the Jopek family to know just how proud Wisconsin is of Ryan, how grateful we are for his service, and how saddened all of us are for his tragic loss. I pledge to the Jopek family all the support of the Wisconsin National Guard we can provide them during the difficult days ahead.

In tribute to Sergeant Ryan D. Jopek I am ordering the flags at all Wisconsin National Guard armories, air bases and other facilities lowered to half-staff beginning Sunday morning and continuing until after his funeral service.

On behalf of all 9,900 of Sergeant Jopek's fellow soldiers and airmen of Wisconsin's National Guard, I salute this fallen hero and pray for the safe and speedy return of 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, and the continued safety of all 2,500 soldiers and airmen of the Wisconsin National Guard who are still serving overseas in harm's way.

Major General Albert H. Wilkening
The Adjutant General of Wisconsin

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